

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Hagerstown I.O.O.F. Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Main and Perry Streets

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE

018

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

177

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Historic Hagerstown, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 126

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Indiana 47346

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

4th and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Since its construction in the 1880's, the I.O.O.F. Hall has been considered one of Hagerstown's finest buildings.

Built between 1880 and 1883, the Hall is an Italianate commercial structure situated on the northwest corner of Main and Perry Streets. It is a rectangular block with a low hipped-roof and six chimneys. The three story load-bearing brick walls are 53 feet high, 41 feet long on the Main Street side, and 90 feet on the Perry Street side. The first floor front is cast iron with stores flanking a central entry. Square columns support a shallow entablature.

The architectural details give the building its Italianate flavor. The second and third story windows on the Main and Perry elevations are dressed with limestone sills and decorated architrave molding over round-arched panes. There are five bays on the Main Street side and seven bays on Perry Street. Quoins at the front corners, a string course between the front second and third floors, and brackets and purlins under the cornice add to the building's detail. A decorated hood at the center of the front roof line corresponds to a hood over the center entry. The upper hood is inscribed with "I.O.O.F. Hall" over the date "1880".

When it was finished, the structure had stores on the ground floor and an opera hall and the Odd Fellows meeting hall on the second and third floors. The third floor meeting hall boasted an organ and 267 square yards of carpeting.

Few alterations have been made to the structure. In 1898, gas lighting replaced kerosene lamps; electric lighting was first used in 1908. A fire escape was added to the Perry Street side sometime around the turn of the century. In 1913, Charles Newcomb, a local artist, painted murals on the plaster walls of the opera hall. Many of the original interior furnishings and fixtures were auctioned off by the Odd Fellows in 1973. After purchasing the building in 1974, Historic Hagerstown, Inc., removed several exterior neon signs that had been added during the last fifty years.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1880-1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. M. Waltz

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The I.O.O.F. Hall has been an important landmark in Hagerstown for almost one hundred years. It is significant for its architecture and role in the community's social life.

From the time that Hagerstown was platted in 1832 until construction began on the Odd Fellows Hall in 1880, the lot at Main and Perry Streets remained undeveloped. During this period the land changed hands numerous times.

The Heneosis Adelpthon Lodge, No. 25 of the I.O.O.F., was chartered in 1846. After meeting in houses and other lodge halls, the Odd Fellows contracted William M. Waltz to construct a meeting hall. Waltz was the son of an early settler in the township. He operated a saw mill in the Hagerstown area and acquired his building knowledge largely through experience. With his son Frank, he constructed a number of houses, churches, stores, and other structures. The Hagerstown I.O.O.F. Hall was to be their most notable achievement. They used native timber and bricks fired on the location and in 1883 presented the Odd Fellows a bill for \$9,037 for the completed structure.

The building is an example of an Italianate commercial structure. While it was considered in the late nineteenth century to be one of Hagerstown's finest buildings, it is now valued as a surviving example of Italianate architecture. The brackets, cast iron front, low roof, decorations, and architrave molding over the arched windows are representative of the Italianate commercial style. Although this style was popular in the Midwest in the late 1800's, the Odd Fellows Hall is unusual in that it has survived with few alterations. Few store fronts have remained as untouched as in this structure; windows have not been altered; and the decorative moldings are still in place. The 1883 carpet in the third floor meeting room is in remarkable condition for its age. The fact the Odd Fellows owned the structure until Historic Hagerstown acquired it in 1974 accounts for its relatively unaltered condition.

A source of local pride are the murals on the second floor walls. Charles Lucien Newcomb painted the murals on the plaster walls in 1913. Like Waltz, he was the son of pioneer residents and was self-taught. His mother operated the Newcomb House, one of Hagerstown's hotels during the nineteenth century. Charles Newcomb worked in the family hotel operation and painted as a side interest. Natural talent and travel experiences seem to have been the basis for his painting because he had no formal training. He supplied murals for some public buildings in nearby Richmond, and although a number of Hagerstown residents commissioned him to work on their houses, few examples remain. For the Odd Fellows Hall, Newcomb used wallpaper imported from Europe as a guide, enlarging the figures to life size as he worked.

The Hagerstown I.O.O.F. Hall is representative of the prominent role of lodges in the civic, cultural, and social life of the late nineteenth century. Such organizations were

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

major diversions for residents of Midwestern towns and farms. The I.O.O.F. was considered one of Hagerstown's elite social groups, and it provided beneficial services in an age before governments attempted to guarantee basic services and opportunities for all citizens.

The opera hall on the second floor was important as a community meeting center. From the 1800's well into the twentieth century it hosted school commencements, church services, musicales, political rallies, dances, and other social gatherings. For a while the hall even served as a roller skating rink. Historic Hagerstown's 1974 purchase of the building has assured that it will continue to serve the community, now as a museum.

The Hagerstown I.O.O.F. Hall is an important link to the nineteenth century. The Italianate architecture and historical associations of the structure are reminders of a vanishing architectural style and social life.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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